

Sudan says army killed 52 rebels

KHARTOUM (R) — The Sudanese army said Tuesday its troops killed 52 rebels and wounded 150 when they stormed two rebel camps in the southern Bahr Al Ghazal region. A military communiqué said two soldiers were slightly wounded in the assault on the camps east of the town of Gogrial Friday. The fighting was the first announced by the army since a peace accord was signed in Addis Ababa 13 days ago by rebels of the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) and a junior partner in Prime Minister Sadeq Al Mahdi's coalition government.

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AROUND THE WORLD...

Bhutto meets Soviet envoy to Pakistan

ISLAMABAD (R) — Benazir Bhutto, appearing increasingly likely to become Pakistan's next prime minister, had lunch with Soviet Ambassador Victor Yakunin Tuesday at his embassy. An embassy statement said they discussed "international and bilateral issues" but did not elaborate. Details of the talks were not immediately available from Bhutto's Pakistan People's Party (PPP) which has made clear its support for guerrillas fighting the Soviet-backed Afghan government. Pakistan's acting President Ghulam Ishaq Khan is to name the new prime minister Thursday.

5,000 executed in Iran since August'

NICOSIA (R) — Iran's main opposition group said Tuesday that Iranian authorities executed more than 5,000 political prisoners in the last four months in a crackdown on dissidents. The Baghdad-based Mujahideen-e-Khalq, in a telegram received in Nicosia, said it had sent the names and details of 200 political prisoners executed in Iran from August to November to the United Nations. Mujahideen leader Massoud Rajavi telephoned the names to U.N. Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar and General Assembly President Dante Caputo, the foreign minister of Argentina, the group added.

Iranian militia practices tactics

NICOSIA (R) — More than 600,000 militiamen set up road blocks, searched cars and staged mock attacks on buildings in anti-guerrilla exercises in dozens of Iranian cities Tuesday, Tehran Radio reported. It said the exercise was aimed at improving the ability "to confront possible plots by enemies of the revolution." The radio said 25,000 militiamen took part in a building demolition exercise in one Tehran Square while defence against poison gas attacks was demonstrated in another square.

Tamir denies visit unauthorised

TEL AVIV (AP) — The foreign ministry director general Tuesday denied charges by ministry officials that he embarked on his current visit to the Soviet Union with prior authorisation. "I have not yet made a trip that needed permission without first receiving permission," Avraham Tamir told Israel Radio in a telephone interview from Moscow. Tamir is the highest-ranking Israeli to visit the Soviet Union since Moscow cut ties with Israel after the 1967 war. He met with members of an Israeli consular delegation in Moscow. Ministry officials said Monday that Tamir had not coordinated the trip with Foreign Minister Shimon Peres, and that the visit could cause Israeli embarrassment with the Soviets.

Sri Lanka gunmen shoot dead 15

COLOMBO (R) — Guerrillas have shot dead 15 people in Sri Lanka in the past 24 hours, the military said Tuesday. A military report said the victims, gunned down in incidents across the Indian Ocean island, were mostly civilians known to be supporters of the government. The government has accused the People's Liberation Front, whose members are mainly from Sri Lanka's Sinhalese majority, of mounting violent protests to topple President Junius Jayewardene's government. Security forces arrested more than 400 suspected front rebels in house-to-house searches in the suburbs of the capital Colombo at the weekend.

Lagos bans debate on Sharia

LAGOS (R) — Nigeria's military government has called a halt to constant rowing in the constituent assembly over the status of Sharia, Islamic law, in the 21-state federation. Chief of General Staff Augustus Aikhomu told the assembly Monday it should cancel debate on the sections of the draft constitution dealing with the federal judiciary including the role of Sharia courts.

Estonian minister backs Gorbachev

HELSINKI (R) — The foreign minister of Soviet Estonia, whose parliament has voted itself the right to veto Soviet laws within its territory, declared his support Tuesday for Kremlin leader Mikhail Gorbachev and his reforms. As the federal Soviet parliament met in Moscow to approve sweeping constitutional changes (see page 8), Foreign Minister Arnold Green said his republic's action had been in support of Gorbachev's "perestroika" reform programme. Green made his remarks to reporters who questioned him at a meeting of participants in a forthcoming children's welfare conference.

26 killed in attack on Burmese train

BANGKOK (R) — Guerrillas attacked a Burmese train southeast of Rangoon Tuesday, killing 26 people and injuring 20, Rangoon Radio reported. The radio, monitored in Bangkok, said members of the Mon ethnic minority blew up the line beneath a passenger train between Ye and Moulmein near the town of Maungdaw, then opened fire with small arms at the carriages. The Mon are one of more than a dozen ethnic groups, many of them along the borders, fighting the Rangoon government for more autonomy. The attack took place in an area where Karen guerrillas have also operated.

Dali in intensive care unit

BARCELONA, Spain (R) — Spanish artist Salvador Dali, 84, was in the intensive care unit of a Barcelona hospital with severe heart and breathing trouble Tuesday but visitors said he seemed slightly better. "He wants to live, and this is an encouragement to doctors," government spokeswoman Rosa Conde told reporters after calling on the surrealist painter at his city's Quiron Clinic. She said he had asked a television set to watch reports about his health. Dali, a contemporary of Pablo Picasso and the most controversial of Spain's great 20th-century painters, was taken from hospital in his hometown of Figueras to Barcelona Monday night after suffering a blood clot in his lung. One doctor said his life was "in the hands of God."

Mitchell elected Democratic leader

WASHINGTON (AP) — Senate democrats elected George Mitchell of Maine Tuesday as their leader and the man who will guide the Democratic majority through its coming skirmishes with George Bush's White House, sources said. A New England liberal like defeated Democratic presidential candidate Michael Dukakis, Mitchell's foreign policy and international trade record has adhered to mainstream Democratic Party lines in opposing several key initiatives of President Ronald Reagan. Senate republicans meanwhile reelected Bob Dole as their leader Tuesday.

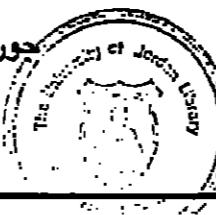
Chad raises new anti-Libyan charges

NDJAMENA (R) — Chad said Libyan MiG fighters violated its northern airspace Tuesday, a day after Chad announced it had shot down a Libyan military plane in the same area. Chad, which has been observing a one-year-old ceasefire with Libya over their disputed border, reported the alleged fresh violations on the mid-day radio news, less than 24 hours after a government communiqué said a Libyan plane had been shot down and its two pilots captured. Earlier Tuesday Libya said Chadian forces had opened fire on a civil Libyan aircraft whose pilots had got lost on a training flight and forced it to land.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation

جورдан تايمز يومية سياسية تصدر بالإنجليزية عن المؤسسة الصحفية الاردنية «الراي»



Iran cool to Genscher plea

TEHRAN (R) — Iranian leaders parried a plea from West German Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher Tuesday for help in freeing Western hostages in Lebanon by calling for information on three Iranians missing there. And they told him that no breakthrough on the hostage issue could be expected until relations with the United States improved, sources in Genscher's delegation said. Genscher, the most senior Western politician to visit Iran since the August ceasefire in its war with Iraq, told reporters Iranian leaders said they were ready to press for freedom of Westerners believed held by pro-Iranians in Lebanon. "They indicated they were ready to talk on the hostage matter, but they didn't consider it a priority," he said at the end of his two-day visit. Deputy Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Larijani said after meeting Genscher that Iran wanted information on three Iranians and their Lebanese driver whom he said were seized by pro-Western militiamen in Lebanon. The four have been missing since July 1982. The Lebanese Forces militia said at the time it released the four men after detaining them for identity checks.

PNC decisions qualitative step for peace, King tells U.N.

NEW YORK (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein said Tuesday that Jordan views the Palestinian people's acceptance of United Nations Security Council Resolution 242 as a big qualitative step towards peace in the Middle East.

"Such acceptance constitutes a step in the right direction to put peace efforts in the right framework to establish just comprehensive and durable peace in the region," the King said in a message to the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People on the eve of the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People.

King Hussein said the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), through the resolutions adopted by the Palestinian National Council (PNC) in Algiers earlier this month, had done what it was asked to do and contribute to pushing peace efforts forward. "Therefore it is incumbent on the international community to press hard for convening an international peace conference on the Middle East," the King said in the address.

"The Jordanian decision to disengage administrative and legal relations with the West Bank does not mean in any way that Jordan relinquishes its pan-Arab duty toward the Palestinian cause, nor does it mean that Jordan has abandoned its basic role in the Arab-Israeli conflict," the King said.

"Jordan's commitment towards the Palestine question, since its creation, is a principled commitment dictated by our national and pan-Arab duties. Our interaction with the Palestinian question and the direct bearings of this cause are the

(Continued on page 2)

crucial stage," the King said. "Jordan will continue its support for the Palestinian people until the Palestinian struggle achieves its objectives and the Palestinian people exercise their inalienable rights on their national soil.

The declaration of the 29th November as the International Day for Solidarity with the Palestinian People is an outstanding evidence of the justice of the Palestinian cause and an evidence of the increasing international conviction that the basis for peace in the Middle East lies in achieving justice for the Palestinian people."

King Hussein voiced hope that such an occasion would serve as an opportunity for gaining international commitment for intensified efforts to apply justice, freedom and equality to the Palestinian people.

"At a time when the international conscience began realising the eventualities of applying the values of right, justice and equality and the need for establishing peace all over the world, we sincerely hope that such concern stretches to cover the Palestinian people, whose cause has always been the crux of the conflict in the Middle East," the King said.

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(Continued on page 2)

U.N. to call on U.S. to reverse Arafat visa denial

UNITED NATIONS (Agencies) — Arab states agreed to introduce a resolution Tuesday that urges the U.S. State Department to grant Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat a visa, allowing him to address the General Assembly in New York, a PLO diplomat said.

M. Nasser Al Kidwa, the second-ranking diplomat in the PLO's U.N. observer mission, said the resolution was to be introduced before a U.N. committee, and may go the full General Assembly later Tuesday or Wednesday.

(Continued on page 2)

Strike marks partition plan

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Israeli troops shot and wounded at least 20 Palestinians Tuesday during a general strike in protest against the 1947 U.N. resolution that partitioned Palestine into Jewish and Arab states, hospital officials said.

Most of the 1.7 million residents of the occupied territories observed the general strike.

In the Gaza Strip, the army placed more than half the 650,000 Palestinian residents under curfew.

Jewish settlers accused the army of failing to "protect" them from stone-throwing and began

Rabin urges Labour to join Likud coalition

TEL AVIV (AP) — Israeli Defense Minister Yitzhak Rabin Tuesday urged his Labour party to consider joining a coalition government led by the rival Likud bloc, in order to withstand demands for religious legislation that have angered Jews abroad.

Meanwhile, the ultra-orthodox Shas Party, which made its partnership in a Likud government contingent on passage of the controversial religious bill, threatened to withdraw its support from Likud, a Shas spokesman said.

It is clear to us now that this included promises to change things that could create a rift between Israel and the Jewish nation... it seems to me if there is a possibility to prevent this, it will be by establishing a joint government," Rabin said.

Likud leader Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir will not be able to form a government without Shas' support.

Shamir offered Labour two senior cabinet ministries if the left-leaning party joins a broad-based government.

Labour leaders are meeting Wednesday to consider the offer, and some party officials predicted a showdown between Labourites willing to compromise and those who want to sit in parliament as an opposition party.

"The public is worried about the country and not about settling small scores," Rabin said on army radio Tuesday. "The reality we are facing require the party to seriously examine the possibilities of establishing a broad-based government."

The religious parties want a law which would accept only conversions to Judaism performed by orthodox rabbis, angering American Jews who mostly belong to the reform or conservative movements.

Arabs seek Dec. 13-15 session in Geneva

UNITED NATIONS (R) — Arab states have asked for a deferral of the General Assembly's Palestine debate, set to begin here Thursday, and it will probably take place in Geneva from Dec. 13 to 15, a U.N. source said Tuesday.

The request, not yet made public, follows the refusal of the United States to grant a visa to Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat to come to New York to address the assembly.

A separate assembly debate on the situation in the Middle East will be held in New York as originally scheduled, beginning next Monday, the senior U.N. secretariat source said.

General Assembly President Dante Caputo, the foreign minister of Argentina, told the forum Tuesday that he had received a request from Arab states to postpone the Palestine debate, scheduled to begin Thursday.

Since there were no objections, he said, the request was granted. Caputo previously announced the General Assembly would move swiftly to provide Arafat an alternative forum because of the U.S. action.

It would be the first time the General Assembly has moved outside of New York in protest to conduct a regular debate.

Arafat was granted a visa in 1984 to address the General Assembly. Much of the criticism levelled at the United States for its decision Saturday cited the position taken by the Palestine National Council at a meeting earlier this month in Algeria.

FLN renounces monopoly, backs Benjedid

ALGIERS (R) — Algeria's ruling party has renounced the monopoly of power it has enjoyed for the last quarter of a century and endorsed Chadli Benjedid for a third five-year mandate.

A two-day congress of the National Liberation Front (FLN) Monday approved political reforms which preserve the one-party system but open the FLN to different opinions and allow independent candidates to challenge it in elections.

Benjedid had staked his political future on pushing the reform through against party hardliners. Once he had done this, his nomination as sole candidate in presidential elections Dec. 22 became a foregone conclusion.

In his acceptance speech he said his nomination meant support for the changes, which he proposed in October after a week of riots in protest against economic austerity.

Critics say the FLN later developed into a monolithic and self-perpetuating elite impervious to change and insensitive to the views of outsiders.

The criticism has been particularly severe in the months since the riots, with independent

King, N. Yemeni leader review Arab coordination

SANA (Agencies) — His Majesty King Hussein arrived here Tuesday for talks with North Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh

Saleh on the latest developments in the Middle East and the Arab and international scenes and Arab coordination.

The Jordan News Agency, Petra, said the King's talks with Saleh were expected to cover means to coordinate Arab stands in the face of challenges facing the Arab Nation and that the King's visit to North Yemen came within the framework of his consultations with Arab leaders.

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(Petra photo)

Kibi ends two-day visit

AMMAN (Petra) — Arab League Secretary General Chadli Kibi left Amman Tuesday following a two-day visit during which he briefed His Majesty King Hussein on his recent contacts over convening an Arab foreign ministers meeting to discuss the situation in Lebanon.

Kibi and the King discussed efforts to move the U.N. General Assembly session on Palestine to Geneva from New

YORK to Geneva in wake of the American decision

Afghan rebels announce talks with Moscow

ISLAMABAD (R) — Afghan rebels said Tuesday they were due to meet a senior Soviet delegation for their first substantive talks in the 10-year-old guerrilla war.

No confirmation was immediately available from the Soviet side. Diplomatic sources said the meeting had been under discussion for several days and was likely to take place in Saudi Arabia in the first few days of December.

One of the sources cautioned that the Kremlin had not committed itself to attend.

"It's not actually set in concrete," he said.

Another source said the seven-party rebel alliance was still divided on the issue. "It has developed very rapidly, it's a very fluid set-up."

According to spokesmen from three rebel parties, current alliance chief Burhanuddin Rabani will head the rebel side and senior Kremlin aide Yuri Vorontsov the Soviet team.

"It means the Soviets are willing to negotiate, it means recognition of the Mujahideen, Hamid Karzai of the Jabha-i-Nijat-Milli party said.

The Kremlin has previously refused to talk to the Western-backed rebels and the guerrillas have rejected any idea of negotia-

tions with the Soviet-backed Afghan government.

Time for a negotiated settlement is fast running out. Moscow is due to complete its troop withdrawal from Afghanistan in just over 10 weeks, under last April's Geneva accords.

The anti-communist rebels are confident they can soon crush President Najibullah's government once the Soviets are gone.

But many Afghan-watchers fear a "military solution" would result in a massacre and virtual anarchy, leaving Afghanistan divided between quarrelling warlords.

The diplomatic sources said there had been pressure on all sides to push for a peace settlement in recent days.

They said the rebels had virtually suspended rocket attacks on Afghan cities in the past 10 days because of pressure from their Western and Pakistani supporters.

No cross-border bombing raids on Pakistan were reported recently either. Kabul has denied Pakistan charges of frequent bombing raids in the past four months.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE

PNC contributed to peace efforts — King

(Continued from page 1)

natural outcome of our distinguished relations with Palestine and the Palestinians. This relation is based on the historic unity, geography, the intermingling of the population, cultural interaction and economic integration in addition to a common destiny."

The King said:

"We in Jordan have never hesitated to shoulder our great historic responsibilities arising from that commitment and that relation. The Palestine question has remained the major concern of my family, which has made great sacrifices for it since the beginning of this century, and it is my major preoccupation."

The King said, the Palestine question represents "a trust for us and therefore we strive to keep it by the power of right and to carry the message of right and justice to the whole world."

"Jordan's preoccupation with the Palestine cause and its interaction with it dates back to the creation of the Palestine question," the King said. "Since then Jordan has always been making every possible effort and mobilising its resources in service of this cause."

Jordan responded in April 1950 to the Palestinian people's request for unity with Jordan, and such a unity was a model for the constitutional unity which was achieved voluntarily..."

"It called for adherence to the historic rights of the Palestinian people and for safeguarding these rights in any final settlement which is in harmony with international legitimacy."

"Since the Israeli occupation of the West Bank

and Gaza Strip in 1967, we adhered to a firm policy of supporting the steadfastness of the Palestinian people in the occupied territories as much as the circumstances allow us and we have been working hard to reach at a just and comprehensive settlement based on international legitimacy as embodied in the United Nations Security Council resolutions, particularly 242 and 338.

"Jordan has always been keen to take into consideration the Palestinian aspirations in all its efforts to find a just and comprehensive settlement and has directed all its potentials and resources towards serving the Palestinian interest."

"We have also been keen on supporting the PLO, the sole and legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, and coordinating with it to facilitate its participation in any political move as a major party to any final settlement of the Palestine question."

"To realise the PLO wish and in line with the Arab trend to highlight the Palestinian identity, we took our decision to sever administrative and legal relations with the West Bank. It is also for this reason that we blessed the Palestinian uprising that came as a spontaneous reaction to the continued Israeli occupation."

King Hussein said Jordan, as a major party to the Arab-Israeli conflict and a full partner to the peace process, "will pursue its efforts to convene an international peace conference for which we canvassed international support and consensus."

The King added that such a conference "is the right forum for achieving just, comprehensive and durable peace in the region and for solving the Palestine question from all its aspects."

U.N. to urge U.S. to reverse visa denial

(Continued from page 1)

PLO commits acts of "terrorism" that he "knows of, condones and lends support to."

In Washington, the State Department said the U.S. decision to deny the visa was "firm and final."

U.N. legal counsel Carl-August Fleischhauer said the United

States was violating the 1947 headquarters agreement, which obligates the host country to grant visas to U.N. guests. He said Arafat should receive a visa (see page 2).

Arab diplomats called the U.S. decision to deny Arafat a visa a "slap in the face." Allies and rivals of the United States also called for a reversal of its decision.

If the State Department does not grant the visa, the General Assembly could take up a second resolution Thursday or Friday calling for a special session to convene in Geneva

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National News

NATIONAL NEWS IN BRIEF

KING RECEIVES CABLE OF GOOD WISHES: Greek President Christos Sartzetakis Tuesday sent his best wishes to His Majesty King Hussein, while flying over the Jordanian skies. The Greek president sent cable wishing King Hussein continued good health and happiness and the Jordanian people further progress and prosperity. (Petra)

KING CONDOLES SULH FAMILY: His Majesty King Hussein Tuesday sent a cable of condolences to Al Sulh family in Lebanon, in which he expressed his heartfelt condolences over the death of the late Lebanese Premier Taquddin Al Sulh, who passed away Monday. (Petra)

REGENT SENDS CONDOLENCES: His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, Tuesday delegated Balqa Governor Mujib Al Khreisha to convey his condolences to Al Nasour family over the death of the late Sheikh Abdullah Al Nasour. Prince Hassan also delegated Mafrag Governor Fayed Abbadi to convey his condolences to Al Sirhan family over the death of the late Sheikh Jalal Balhi. (Petra)

YADOUDEH GRADUATION: Princess Majda Ra'd Tuesday attended the graduation of a number of ladies from sewing courses organised by the Yadoudeh Charitable Society, and presented graduates with their certificates. (Petra)

YUGOSLAV NATIONAL DAY: The Yugoslav Ambassador to Jordan Zoran Popovic Tuesday hosted a reception on the occasion of his country's National Day, which was attended by senior officials and heads of the diplomatic missions accredited to Jordan. (Petra)

AMERICAN WOMEN ORGANISE BAZAAR: Several Jordanian and international charities will display items and products from their projects at the annual Christmas charity bazaar organised by the American Women of Amman and to be held at the American Community School on Friday, Dec. 2, at 11:00 a.m. Among the items on sale are baked goods, Christmas ornaments and decorations, gifts, games and other foods. The bazaar will also include an adult and children's raffles. All proceeds are to go to charity.

PEOPLE'S ARMY: Two new batches of the people's army recruits were graduated Tuesday during two different celebrations held in North Shouneh and Ajloun. (Petra)

TASK FORCE TO FIGHT LOCUSTS: Emergency task forces were formed in Ramtha district Tuesday to fight locusts in case they enter the Jordanian territories near Ramtha.

AJLOUNI MEETS STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES: Jordan University of Science and Technology President Kamel Ajlouni Tuesday met with the chairman and members of the student organisation's administrative committee and stressed the need for interaction and coordination between the administrative committees and the students. (Petra)

LOAN FOR ZARQA: The Cities and Villages Development Bank has agreed to grant Zarqa Municipality a JD 2.4 million loan to carry out a number of development and services projects. The Zarqa Municipal Council chairman said that JD 750,000 will be used for the construction of pavements and embankments, JD 600,000 for the construction of commercial stores and JD 500,000 for asphaltating the roads. (Petra)

CONFERENCE ON WATER SUPPLY: The Water and Irrigation Ministry will participate in the four-day annual conference on sewerage and water supply scheduled to convene in Geneva on Nov. 29. The ministry will also participate in the five-day regional seminar on agricultural guidance affairs due to convene in Morocco on Dec. 5.



Lawzi receives Spanish envoy

Speaker of the Upper House of Parliament Ahmad Al Lawzi Tuesday receives Spanish Ambassador to Jordan Ramon Armengol. Lawzi discussed with Armengol scopes of cooperation and the strong parliamentary relations between both countries. (Petra photo)

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITIONS

- * An exhibition of iconographies, signs and public places by the German artist Otto Herbert Hajek at the Department of Architecture of the University of Jordan.
- * A plastic art exhibition by 55 artists from Irbid Governorate at Irbid Youth Centre.
- * An exhibition covering T.S. Eliot's life and literary works at the British Council.
- * A book exhibition at the Jordan University of Science and Technology.
- * The French week to exhibit the latest techniques used in the field of civil aviation at the Marriott Hotel.
- * A cultural festival which includes a national book exhibition, an art exhibition, historical photos and documents exhibition, children's paintings and other activities at Anjar Public Library building Ajloun.
- * A plastic art exhibition by Fine Arts Department students at the Yarmouk University.
- * An exhibition of graphic art works which show costumes that represent Jordanian national heritage at the Yarmouk University.
- * A plastic art exhibition by eight Jordanian artists at Abdul Hamid Shoman Foundation.
- * An exhibition on Alia, an Islamic medieval city, port of Palestine and the storehouse of Hijaz on the China Sea, at the Department of Antiquities, Registration and Research Centre.

LECTURE

- * A lecture entitled "Museum education in Bavaria" by Dr. Manfred Vogt at the Museum of Archaeology, the Yarmouk University.

CONCERT

- * A piano concert by Melinda Chauveau - Amane Baccalaureate School - 8:00 p.m.
- * A piano concert by Mary Stanton - Jordan University of Science and Technology in Irbid.



Crown Prince visits army headquarters

His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, Tuesday visited the army headquarters in Amman and met for some time with Armed Forces Commander-in-Chief Field Marshal Sharif

Zaid Ibn Shaker and the Army Chief of Staff Lieutenant-General Fahmi Abu Taleb. Discussions at the meeting covered a number of matters of concern to the Armed Forces (Petra photo)

Crown Prince calls for task force to protect environment in provinces

AMMAN (Petra) — The comprehensive development conference, which was opened by His Majesty King Hussein Monday, resumed sessions Tuesday under the chairmanship of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, and discussed a number of recommendations connected with the services and infrastructure sectors.

Prince Hassan addressed the meeting underlining the importance of projecting the concept of decentralisation in the development council's tasks which, he said, should include the creation of a task force to protect the environment in each province.

Prince Hassan also called for the creation of follow up committees grouping representatives from the public and private sectors and another to deal with the transport sector.

Representatives of various groups and sectors taking part in the meeting submitted working papers recommending the establishment of a unified council representing the private sector, to help the public sector in its development endeavours.

Princess Basma, Duchess of Kent open Ma'an centre

AMMAN (Petra) — Her Royal Highness Princess Basma, accompanied by the Duchess of Kent, Tuesday visited the social services centres in Ma'an and opened the Princess Basma Special Education Centre there.

Princess Basma presented trophies to a number of social workers in the city in appreciation of their efforts in the field of voluntary work.

Princess Basma and her guest toured the various sections of the centre, inspected the equipment

available there and watched children's drawings exhibition and folkloric dances performed by the Ma'an Youth Troupe.

The Princess Basma Centre was established at the end of 1987 to serve children with moderate to mild mental retardation.

The Princess and her guest also listened to a briefing by director of the social service centres in the governorate on the centres, the services they render to mothers and children and on the women-oriented programmes.

Jordan to take part in drug manufacturers talks in Morocco

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan will take part in a second meeting by the Arab Union of Drug Manufacturers which is due to convene in Morocco on Dec. 22.

The union's board chairman Nizar Jardaneh told a press conference in Amman Monday that the meeting will discuss means of promoting the manufacture of drugs and medicine in the Arab World in implementation of a resolution taken by Arab health

ministers.

The meeting will examine means of ensuring enough supply of medicine for the Arab World and coordination among drug manufacturers in production and marketing of products.

The three-day meeting will also focus attention on raw materials used in the manufacture of drugs, the situation of the drug market in the Arab World and the prospect of joint ventures.

He said that at least 300 villagers will benefit from the project which was carried out in the course of implementing a comprehensive network covering the whole of southern Jordanian villages.

Two other villages in the Tafleeh region will be supplied with electricity before the end of 1988, Kanaan noted.

He said that by the completion of the two projects nearly 97 per cent of the Jordanian population will have received electric supply.

Seminar to discuss road repairs

AMMAN (Petra) — A seminar on dealing with pits on Jordanian roads and modern road-repair processes will open at the Royal Cultural Centre Saturday under the patronage of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan.

The seminar, which is being organised by the Jordan Society for the Prevention of Road Accidents (JSOPRA) in cooperation with the Greater Amman Municipality, is expected to discuss working papers dealing with scientific methods in repairing roads and construction, according to JSOPRA spokesman Abdul Fattah Touqan.

Touqan said that representatives of the Ministry of Public Works and Housing, the Telecommunications Corporation (TCC), the Water Authority of Jordan (WAJ), the Jordan Electricity Authority (JEA), the Royal Scientific Society (RSS) and Jordanian universities will take part in the coming two-day

meeting.

The participants who also represent Greater Amman Municipality, Irbid Municipality, the Jordanian Engineers and Contractors Associations, in addition to road specialists from West Germany and Denmark, will discuss ways to coordinate the work of electricity, water and telecommunications services with the Ministry of Public Works in the process of road construction and repairs.

Participants of Mu'ta seminar visit Arab Potash Company plant

KARAK (Petra) — A four-day seminar on the role of universities in propagating science and technology in rural regions of the Arab World Tuesday reviewed a number of papers, and the participants later visited the Arab Potash Company plant at Ghor Al Safi, near the Dead Sea, and were briefed on production and marketing processes.

The working papers discussed at Tuesday's session tackled steps that should be taken in promoting environmental education, spreading awareness among the members of the public on matters related to the environment and enlisting the schools, community colleges and universities to contribute to this process.

At the Arab Potash Company plant, the participants toured the production sections and met with engineers and technicians who explained the production process.

The meetings were opened Monday with a speech by Mu'ta University President Ali Mahfouz who said that the meeting was being held at a time when the

country was going through a process of overhauling its educational system and urged all concerned to give due attention to the subject of developing rural regions of Jordan.

The seminar which is being

attended by delegates from Jordanian universities, and Arab organisations has been organised by Mu'ta University in cooperation with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO).

Jordan, Egypt discuss drug industry cooperation

CAIRO (Petra, J.T.) — Jordan and Egypt Tuesday opened talks on future cooperation in the drug industry, and the prospect of setting up a joint company for the production of primary materials and medical appliances.

Hasan Musmar, the director of the Pharmacy and Drug Control Department at the Health Ministry who leads Jordan's delegation to the talks here said that the two sides will also study the Jordanian and Egyptian needs of medicine and drugs before undertaking practical steps to launch joint

ventures.

The talks will cover means of facilitating the registration of Jordanian medicine in Egypt and those produced by Egypt in Jordan, marketing drugs and pharmaceutical products produced by the two countries in the markets of either country and an exchange of information on drug production controls.

The Jordanian delegation will tour a number of pharmaceutical industries and laboratories in Cairo.

Hindawi: New plan aims to raise education level

AMMAN (Petra) — The Ministry of Education Tuesday published an explanatory statement giving details of a general plan for overhauling the educational system in the Kingdom from now until 1994.

Minister of Education Tha'iqan Hindawi, who issued the statement, said that the aim of the new system, which was endorsed by the first educational conference last year, is to raise the students' level of general education, enabling them to move up to secondary and higher education or join the Jordanian workforce.

Hindawi told the Jordan News Agency, Petra, that the plan entails extension of the compulsory education stage, removing all barriers separating general education from the vocational training at the secondary level, for the sake of improving the quality of education at this stage, and enabling students to acquire better qualifications in preparation for the higher education stage.

Hindawi explained that the educational conference recommended that the regular education at schools should be composed of two stages. The basic stage which will be of a period of 10 years for students between six and 16 years of age, and a two year secondary stage with students between 16 and 18 years of age.

The secondary stage he said should be composed of two disciplines, academic and vocational, with general education courses to be issued by the Ministry of Education.

The ministry's Curricula Department has been entrusted with the task of preparing a working paper to amend courses for the second and third vocational secondary classes so that amend-

ments can be added to the textbooks.

In the 1988-1989 scholastic year, students of the third preparatory class will be promoted to the first secondary class in accordance with their school results and this year no students from these classes will be referred to vocational training centres.

The students of the first secondary class in the current scholastic year will be distributed to academic or vocational training streams. In the 1989-1990 scholastic year, the grades of the students in the second preparatory stage will be recorded to prepare a complete report on these grades by the end of the preparatory stage to help classify students for the academic and vocational streams.

Students of the third preparatory stage in the current scholastic year will be promoted in the second preparatory stage starting with the 1987-1988 scholastic year, and distributed it to the various schools and departments of education in different provinces.

In the 1990-1991 scholastic year, the grades of students in the second and third preparatory classes will be compiled to help smooth the classification process at the secondary level.

On the 1990-1991 scholastic year the reports of grades of students in the preparatory level will have been completed to prepare for their classification in the secondary stage. This process will facilitate the distribution of students in the secondary level.



Minister of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment Yousef Hamdan Al Jabr Tuesday opens a seminar which deals with the negative effects of agricultural projects on the environment (Petra photo)

Jordan to create 'green belt' along badia edge to keep out the desert

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan suffers from pollution problems resulting from the expansion in construction operations at the expense of agricultural land, waste and pesticides, domestic animal enclosures, the encroachment of desert land on arable land and the misuse of chemical fertilisers, Minister of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment Yousef Hamdan Al Jabr said Tuesday.

The protection of the environment remains a major preoccupation for the government which has recently created an "environment sector" within the present five-year development plan," the minister said upon opening a three-day seminar to deal with the negative effects of agricultural projects on the environment.

The government's plan in this respect, he said, entails the creation of a "green belt," which runs along the edge of the badia region from the north to the south of the country, to serve as a national barrier in the face of the encroaching desert.

The minister noted that the finishing touches are being put to the plan before its implementation.

Jabri noted that an agreement with the International Federation for the Conservation of Nature has been signed paving the way for a national strategy for the protection of the environment from pollution.

The agreement, which will be put into force towards the end of this year, is expected to play a leading role in promoting agriculture and at the same time ensure a better and cleaner environment, the minister added.

He said the Arab ministers responsible for the environment have endorsed a Jordanian proposal for the establishment of a central information unit in Jordan on the environment, and contacts are underway to provide the requirements for its establishment.

The introduction of modern techniques in agriculture and industry benefited the Kingdom a great deal, but at the same time numerous negative effects resulted, mostly affecting the en-

vironment, the minister concluded.

Another speaker at the opening session was Jordan Cooperative Organisation (JCO) Director General Mrewid Al Tal, who outlined the government's efforts and instructions to various industries to protect the environment from pollution.

"Keeping the country clean is essential for preserving health and protecting citizens from diseases," Tal added.

He said pollutants resulting from agricultural activities are considered among the main causes of pollution. "This calls for improvements in methods used in the application of fertilisers and pesticides, and educating farmers in modern means of protecting themselves and the environment from materials with dangerous effects."

A representative of the French Naumann Foundation, which is sponsoring the seminar in cooperation with the Ministry of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment, said that industrialised nations' activities have had their negative effects on the developing countries, pointing

out that industrialised nations have been producing millions of tonnes of chemical and dangerous waste which are bound to damage the environment in one way or another.

Pollution resulting in high temperatures in the atmosphere over the past 45 years led to the decline in the size of the ozone layer, and a rise in temperature worldwide posing dangerous consequences on humans and plants, the foundation's representative noted.

A total of 40 working papers dealing with the sources of pollution in Jordan, the effect of using pesticides and animal husbandry projects and the employment of treated wastewater for agricultural purposes, will be discussed by the meeting which is being attended by Jordanian specialists, representatives of the United Nations Environment Programme and experts from Arab and foreign countries.

The seminar will also discuss environmental health, the use of manure and chemical manure and chemical fertilisers and the negative effects of plastic products, such as plastic containers, on the general environment.

THEATRE SEASON OPENS: Deputising for Prime Minister Zaid Rifai, Minister of Culture and National Heritage Mohammad Hammouri Monday inaugurated the first theatre season for this year, organised by the ministry to mark His Majesty King Hussein's birthday. The season includes four plays for adults and children and four symposiums on theatre. The opening ceremony was attended by Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs Sami Joudeh, Information Minister Hani Khasawneh and a number of government officials and ambassadors. (Petra)

REQUIEM MASS
A requiem mass will be celebrated on Thursday, December 1, 1988 at 5 p.m. at the Saint Mary of Nazareth Church, (Sweileh), in memory of the late GI

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More Israeli than Israelis

THE U.S. administration's pronouncement that its refusal to grant an entry visa to Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat to address the United Nations General Assembly is firm and final is not just a statement; it should be taken and treated as an American policy document which states, not in so many words as in deeds, that Washington is so closely cuddled with Israel that it has no respect or consideration for the interests and positions of its own allies, leave alone the many Third World countries which have appealed to the U.S. to reconsider its stand.

Such a policy declaration, coupled with the dawning realisation that the U.S. has no intention whatsoever of engaging itself in any realistic effort for peace in the Middle East, should be an eye-opener to American allies, who have just seen Washington openly flouting the basic agreement under which the United Nations is headquartered in American territory.

The U.S. has staked its position firmly and clearly. The question remains: Where do we go from here? Regardless of the outcome of efforts to move the special U.N. session on Palestine from New York to Geneva, the fact remains that any meaningful progress towards peace in the Middle East based on a just, fair and comprehensive Arab-Israeli settlement will remain elusive as long as the U.S. extends all-out, blind support to Israel and tries to be more Israeli than Israelis themselves.

Sooner or later, the scenario will turn into one of the U.S., Israel and a handful of their allies pitted against the rest of the world. Lines will have to be drawn as to what extent each individual country is willing to go in the political and diplomatic confrontation.

It is time Washington did some hard thinking, and decide whether such a scenario will be compatible with American interests, whether on the official level or otherwise.

But one thing is certain; the more Washington clings on to its intransigence and maintains deaf ears to the voice of reason and justice, the better the climate for hardened positions and extremism will be.



Rabah — Al Ra'i

ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Aj Ra'i daily on Tuesday tackled the King's address at the comprehensive development meeting in Amman in which he explained the dimensions and the far-reaching objectives of the coming stage in Jordan's economic life. The coming phase should be one for correction and adaptation and adjustment to new realities and new situations and one that would help the country move ahead into the 21st century, the paper said. What the King urged is an intensified effort on the part of all citizens so that the country can overcome its present circumstances and what is wanted is a genuine rationalisation of the spending that would save funds to be invested in income generating projects, the paper added. The King, the paper continued, linked the people's determination with the country's potentials and said the process of adaptation can succeed if plans are laid on sound basis and if citizens are genuinely oriented to serving the national interests.

A columnist in Aj Ra'i Arabic daily comments on the International Day for Solidarity with the Palestinian People which falls on Nov. 29 and says that this year the anniversary coincides with two important events. According to Ibrahim Sakkija, one of these events is the on-going uprising in the occupied Palestinian land and the other is the proclamation of the Palestinian state. What could be another important event, he says is the address of PLO leader Yasser Arafat before the U.N. General Assembly in New York had it not been for Washington's unexpected decision to bar the Palestinian leader from entering the United States. Nov. 29 as is known marks the anniversary of the U.N. General Assembly resolution on the partition of Palestine into an Arab and Israeli state. But for the U.S. incautious decision, says the writer, Arafat will not be now addressing the General Assembly, presenting the Palestinian people's case and seeking further assistance for the establishment of a just peace.

Al Dustour daily commented on King Hussein's address to the development councils meeting on Monday. It was good that the King spoke about the past achievements and the development of the Kingdom over the years despite the hardships and difficulties, a reminder to the citizens to take pride in their accomplishments and their country's successes, said the paper. The monarch also reminded the public of their duty towards the coming generations for whom they have to toil and build and maintain the march of progress, the paper added. It said that having passed through a vast experience the Jordanian people must now be more determined and more insistent on following the same path that leads to prosperity despite the challenges and the current circumstances.

Sawt Al Shaa'b daily also dwelt on King Hussein's speech to the comprehensive development conference in which the King called on the people to build up a productive society. The paper echoed the King's call on the public to curtail expenditure and innovative means of reinforcing savings and investments in order to be able to guarantee a promising future.

King: Evaluate, build on accomplishments, cure shortcomings

The following is the full text of His Majesty King Hussein's address at the opening session of the Comprehensive Development Conference on Monday, Nov. 29.

In the name of God, the Merciful, the Compassionate

Brothers and Sisters

Fellow Citizens

IT GIVES me great pleasure to open this national conference on development which comes at the conclusion of a series of regional meetings in various parts of the Kingdom. In wishing you every success in your deliberations, I hope that this conference will reinforce our current orientation towards the beginning of a new phase of Jordan's economic life; a phase characterised by maturity and growth that is built on qualitative improvement, excellence of service and support for the growth of the production sector through the efforts of labourers and entrepreneurs; all within the framework of an integrated, cooperative and open-minded society closely linked with its Arab environment and the world at large.

I salute your recent efforts in the meetings that were held in our central, southern and northern regions; the results of which I have followed with interest. I hope that the discussions today and tomorrow will crystallise ideas on what should be accomplished by the end of the millennium. I am confident that we, in this brave country, can work diligently and coherently to overcome difficulties and challenges and to move, with God's help, towards new horizons and a bright future.

Brothers and Sisters

At the outset of this new stage, it is essential for us to conduct a comprehensive evaluation of our economic performance. Our objective is to accentuate and build on our positive accomplishments and to identify and cure our shortcomings and limitations. To achieve this it is imperative to reaffirm our commitment to the constance of economic freedom and social justice and to assess new developments in order to arrive at a vision that reflects our common hopes.

The dialogue you have conducted in your previous meetings has been a good example of openness and inter-sectoral linking. This practice is one that would guarantee the continuity of the economic process in a harmonious, closely-knit procedure governed by the belief in a common goal, and positive outlook.

What we have achieved in Jordan to date is worthy of pride. It does not shame us to acknowledge some shortcomings; recalling that those who make no mistakes are those who do not work... Our fate has imposed upon us great responsibilities which we have faced with resolve. In quick survey of our political, economic and military history since the birth of modern Jordan reveals basic facts of which we must be fully aware: Those who do not study their history cannot do justice to their present or plan their future. We in this free and proud land, are students of history, builders of the present and makers of the future.

Since its establishment, Jordan has faced great challenges and found itself involved in a struggle for survival amid difficult situations shaped by international and intra-regional interactions. The history of modern Jordan started right after the First World War. The resultant agreements between the colonial powers involved us in international struggle and in the ambitions of the great powers of the time.

My grandfather, the late King Abdullah Iba Al Hussein was a man of vision and great insight. In spite of all difficulties, he was able to begin building modern Jordan with the support of its loyal citizens and the Arab nationalists who believed in the principles of the Great Arab Revolt. He always found that the scarcity of natural resources in Jordan frustrated ambitions; yet this did not stop him from building a centrist and moderate country which rests on the principles of faith, hard work and creativity. In the thirties we suffered from the effects of the world depression and then came the Second World War with all its harshness and ferocity. Yet Jordan was able to pull through and build institutions and forge cohesion and unity among its population. At the end of the war, Jordan's quest for independence was crowned by the declaration, in 1946, of an independent Hashemite Kingdom with its own constitution, institutions, an army and all the other components of nationhood in every sense of the word. In 1948, we fought an unequal war and Israel was created on the part of Palestine. We paid dearly and were able to maintain Arab sovereignty over Jerusalem and large parts of Palestine.

When I succeeded my father, the late King Talal Iba Abdullah, I committed myself to carrying the banner of the Great Arab Revolt with clarity of vision and moderation. It was clear to me from the onset that maintaining Jordan's strength required building a sound economy, which was not an easy task in view of the limited natural resources. Many people doubted Jordan's ability to build a viable economic structure.

Yet, we found that the scarcity of the resources along with numerous burdens in the areas of defence and development could be overcome with faith in God, diligent work and belief in ourselves. On this basis, we were able to steer our country through the successive crises and instabilities of our area with a strong will, faith and steadfastness.

Then in the war of 1967, Israel occupied the rest of Palestine and, we were faced with compounded burdens as a result. The economic situation in the country worsened and we had to deal with problems and crises of all kinds, which gave us an outstanding ability to survive hardship. By 1972, the situation took a turn to the better and we proved once again that we were a united and cohesive nation, seasoned by circumstances, with an unequivocal resolve not to be distracted from its purpose.

I entrusted my brother His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan Ibn Talal with the responsibility of reconstruction and development. With his dynamism and vitality, dedication and depth of knowledge he was able to rally devoted citizens and mobilise them in the positive values of hard work and perseverance. Thus Jordan was able to steer itself in the right direction and to maintain sustained economic growth. We were also able to pass through the challenges that accompanied the boom years which coincided with the rise in the price of oil. During that period we achieved ideal growth rates without destabilising the social structure. We built various infrastructures, including universities and other institutions of higher learning, schools, hospitals, roads, bridges, dams, water networks, electricity and telecommunications in addition to expanding the production base in agriculture, industry and services in tourism and banking. We provided our citizens with all the ingredients that are necessary for decent living, including food, shelter, medical care and social security.

What we have built did not come out of a vacuum and what we enjoy today did not come for free. Every stone we laid is a landmark for the struggle and will of successive generations. What we have built with hard work has evolved into a modern, progressive country that will enrich our future generations. In light of all this we will not accept any step backward. We will not bend before challenges and will not allow incidental circumstances to bring down what has been built in many years of diligent efforts.

Brothers and Sisters

What we have achieved, with God's help, to date has placed us at the threshold of a new era which we are about to enter with confidence. One of the most important prerequisites for success at this stage is to build on the positive and discard the negative.

Positive elements in our society are manifold and God's blessings are countless. We enjoy an unparalleled regional and international reputation. It is a source of pride to see the world point to our country as a shining example of good management and brilliant achievement. Our moderate, reasonable and balanced approach has earned us the confidence that we are qualified and capable of sustained and balanced growth.

As a result, we have become a meeting place of brothers and friends who find that this country and its people offer them what they aspire to in terms of a healthy, welcoming and magnanimous environment where they can solve their problems, arbitrate their differences and accomplish their endeavours.

With the other countries of the world we enjoy relations of mutual respect and cooperation, augmented by our important strategic

location. It is our duty to transform this confidence and this balanced path into a source of benefit and good return to our country and to all those who deal with us. Among the most prominent and positive features of our society, is that our people are educated, cultured, enlightened and creative. The Jordanian citizen has not spared any effort in his quest for knowledge and learning and has not done himself the injustice of idleness and apathy. We must build a productive economy which utilises these capabilities and values in an open-minded approach that is receptive to modern administrative and scientific applications.

We must also recall the political environment in which we live. The Jordanian society has not moulded itself in inflexible frames nor has it resorted to extremism. It has not wavered from its centrist and moderate line, and the relationship between the governor and the governed is one that rests on mutual trust and understanding. With God's help, we have averted social ills in that it is possible for any individual to climb up the social ladder if he is able and creative. This healthy and stable atmosphere has become a rare example in this troubled world and a great advantage that we have to safeguard and maintain despite conspiracies and unfavourable conditions.

As far as our regional environment is concerned, we enjoy strong and close relations with our Arab brethren. We have always viewed ourselves as an integral part of the Greater Arab World, and we have dealt with it in the spirit of the Great Arab Revolt maintaining this stand in all our agreements and commitments. We have never let down our Arab brothers nor have we abrogated any pact with them. We have reciprocated good will and upheld our position in the core of the Arab Order in code and conduct. This stand does not stem from any selfish or material interests but rather from the belief that Arab complementarity and solidarity enhance their status in the world and paves the way for the achievement of their objectives. I have called for reviving Arab economic integration, especially in these circumstances in which various world regions have found acceptable formulae for cooperation and useful integration. We Arabs have added reasons to unify our regional economics particularly since we have the common denominators of history, religion, language, heritage and destiny and it is important to activate these components. Others have accomplished a lot more with less common elements. Europeans, for example, have found a civilised formula to interact in spite of the lack of harmony among their nations in terms of language, history and culture and in spite of numerous memories of conflict and antagonism.

Jordan's faith in unity does not emanate solely from sentiment but also from a clear vision of the needs of the future and what it entails in terms of challenges and difficulties. Arab economic complementarity forms a corner-stone for the comprehensive Arab Order and we in Jordan must bear this in mind and conform to it in our plans and programmes and propagate it in thought and action.

Jordan has, during the past decades, built a cumulative inventory of achievements that has been added to with every successive generation. This treasure is the solid foundation for the construction of modern Jordan with an economy that is productive and capable of furnishing the means to satisfy current and future needs.

Experience has taught us that the process of construction will invariably suffer from momentary set-backs which spill over to us from abroad by virtue of our close connections with the outside world. We must build our innate administrative ability to face and contain new developments in order to maintain constant progress; thus, our institutions must keep their active role, to safeguard our accomplishments and defend them in the face of destabilising shocks. Desirable change depends on rational behaviour, and reasonable conduct. Moderate consumption that preserves economic momentum and supports savings is the one compatible with our morals; traditions and system of values as stated in the Holy Koran: "Make not thy hand tied to the neck; nor stretch it forth to its utmost reach and thus become blameworthy and destitute" (Al Isra' Surah, Verse 29).

We can curtail our expenditure as we realise that extravagance is not a personal issue but rather a cost incurred by society at large. We have to innovate means of reinforcing savings and investment inclinations in order to be able to guarantee a promising future. We want investment to be open to all honest citizens, (residing inside or outside Jordan) on an equal footing. Regardless of our positions and locations, we are all equal in access to productive work and in reaping its benefits. Waste is not confined to consumption habits, for investment expenditure can also be squandered. We always have to bear in mind that a feasible investment project is one that becomes operational at the lowest possible cost. There is no need for spending on unproductive components or for expanding the volume of a project to levels whereby it loses its competitiveness. Instead of purchasing new equipment we have to learn to utilise available machinery to the utmost and optimal levels of performance. Within this framework, we have to innovate methods of exploiting our natural resources and our scientific and research potential. We must master the capability of providing distinctive and high quality products that gives the buyer, at home and abroad, a fair return for his money. Control over spending at the individual and family levels and in factories and institutions, is what will lessen our dependence on importation and enhance our ability to export and consequently secure the needed financing for new projects. The nations that boast of excessive and uncontrolled expenditures deprive themselves of the possibility for continuous growth and place themselves hostage to the whims of others. We realise that the opportunities for low-cost financing have diminished and that we cannot from now on, undertake any unproductive or unstudied expenditure.

We must develop our citizens' eagerness to care for and protect the country's resources and to perform voluntary work. The citizen should no longer remain isolated from his country's needs. There is a vast potential in our youth, retired citizens, women and students that can be mobilised into a tremendous force serving of the country's needs in agriculture, afforestation, conservation of the environment and community service. We must develop integrated programmes that will enable these energies to serve their country. A citizen who is actively serving his country has an unshakeable faith in his country and its future. To ensure popular participation in developmental efforts and the equitable distribution of its benefits we must attempt to strike a balance between the population dimension on the one hand and the geographic distribution of resources on the other. These two dimensions deserve our utmost consideration and care. Jordan, as you know, is still among the leading countries in population growth, and according to U.N. statistics, the second country in the world in birth rate ratios. Regardless of the size of the population, the increase in birth rates, entails big challenges including the high ratios of children and consequently, an increased demand for basic requirements such as shelter, education, health care and job opportunities. As long as population distribution is concentrated in the capital and its suburbs, we will be depriving ourselves of opportunities for investment in natural resources and production potential in other regions of Jordan. We have to adopt a developmental policy that would give the regions growth opportunities which would enable them to reach the highest levels of productivity allowing them to actively interact with the national economy.

Regional developmental efforts should be coupled with a clear perception of administrative and financial requirements in order for the effort to be relevant to the environment in which developmental projects are established. In all cases, clarity and good preparation are prerequisites for desirable developmental ends. In speaking of a regional development the badia/desert areas emerge as a special case worthy of attention and care. This promising and vast section of our country, must be a cornerstone of our new approach.

This area, large though it is, needs added developmental input to enable it to catch up with the rest of the country. The badia and its people have always been the source of our pride and confidence, and we have no doubt that after the accomplishment of infrastructural projects, its area will become a bastion for prime production and a source of good and respectable living for many of our citizens, particularly members of the Armed Forces. If we succeed in transforming the badia into a focal region that attracts population then we can be confident that our expenditure in it will yield fruitful results. I look forward to seeing concrete administrative arrangements and tools that would guarantee the achievement of this objective.

Development in Jordan is basically dependent upon the human element, therefore it is imperative that we place a lot of emphasis on the human being and on equipping him with training and useful scientific tools. In this sense we were gratified with the results of the educational reform conference which called for deep-rooted structural reform of the educational sector.

The preparation and qualification of teachers, the stress on laboratories and suitable buildings, and the development of modern curricula, constitute the prerequisites for success in vitalising this important sector. We must teach our children and youth creative thinking and instill in them proper ethical values. If we succeed in this undertaking we will have guaranteed an essential portion of success in our struggle for construction and productivity. It is also important to ensure that our institutes of higher learning and our universities have the capability of graduating batches of learned, cultured and specialised students. University education must address the priorities and needs of the country for it to become instrumental in achieving parity between supply of and demand for manpower, thus avoiding structural imbalances in the labour market and the ensuing waste of money and energy and the rise in unemployment.

Development is not complete unless it caters to human needs and demands. A productive and creative person expects his country to provide him with his basic needs and reasonable requirements. For this reason, administration of social sectors should be directed mainly towards furnishing those requirements within reason. Schools, health clinics and youth centres must be built within a framework of coordination and harmonious integration to serve the citizen and deepen his sense of belonging. In this way we would raise the standard of social services from the mere level of extending grants to one of inducing more participation.

Agriculture has always been a basic source of production and job opportunities, and therefore has to continue receiving our attention as the pivot of economic activity in the countryside. However, we have to utilise what experience we have gained to enhance productivity and diversify output as well as increase our self-reliance in food production. We must keep in mind the need to gradually attain self-sufficiency and even think in terms of exporting surplus production in the future. Needless to say, we should pay more attention to forestry with the hope that we can transform our country into an attractive green oasis. Let the year 2000 be, God willing, a turning point to celebrate a green Jordan in which every inch of fertile land is developed.

Our land conceals many treasures; some yet to be explored. Available data indicates that energy sources are abundant and could, at this very moment, satisfy all our needs were it not for cost considerations. Our land also contains many elements that can be utilised in existing and new industries. We must have a long range plan to exploit our natural resources in order to satisfy our needs. This also requires that we become more sensitive to the environment; conserving it and protecting it from pollution.

Nature has not been extremely generous to us in material resources but it has lavished on us its beauty in the mountains, valleys, seashore and desert. Moreover, Jordan's location has enabled it to host a variety of civilisations that flourished on its soil over thousands of years. These statements of beauty and history which abound in Jordan have made it a vast museum attracting people from all parts of the world and from all walks of life. Many countries have compensated for their scarcity of resources by developing their tourism industry. It is high time we concentrated our attention on the tourism sector, not only by providing better hotels and means of communication and transportation, but also by good interaction with tourists and by training competent personnel to work in this vital sector.

Our recent experience in the last few weeks has demonstrated to us the importance of self-reliance as well as the importance of the building-up of our national potential. But more importantly, it has made us realise that self-indulgence will reflect on us negatively. Efficient resource-management and allocation have to remain the primary concern in our economic policy. We have to realise fully that modern management is not merely general perceptions and broad ideas, it is also precise decisions that require good organisation and response, and prompt thinking and planning. This necessitates the availability of correct data and good processing of information, the latter making it readily accessible to

A message from the PLO: Give peace a visa

By Bassam Abu Sherif

The following article appeared Monday, Nov. 28 in the London-based *Middle East Mirror*. The writer is advisor to PLO Chairman Yasir Arafat.

SOME five months ago, I wrote a position paper that attracted some attention in the U.S. and elsewhere.

The paper said, in essence, that the Palestine Liberation Organisation wants peace and security for the Palestinians and the Israelis alike, "because no people deserves less and because no one can build his own future on the ruins of another's."

I proposed immediate talks between the PLO and Israel in the context of an international conference on the Middle East, toward a two-state solution of the Palestinian-Israeli problem that would finally bring peace to all the states of the region, including Palestine and Israel.

The paper was completed as an apparently sincere expression of one Palestinian's acceptance of Israel and his desire to coexist with it, and it was dismissed as unimportant for the same reason: that it was the "unauthoritative" position of one man who had neither the mandate to represent the PLO nor the power to sway it.

On November 15, what I said in the article was stated in greater detail by the Palestine National Council (PNC), the PLO's highest authority.

But the declarations of the PNC, authoritative as they are, and applauded though they were by most countries, including the twelve members of the European Community, were rejected as an act of war by Israel and shrugged off as inadequate by the U.S. administration.

This U.S. administration went one step further: On November 26, 12 days after the PNC waved the olive branch, the American State Department announced that it was denying the chairman of the PLO, Mr. Yasser Arafat, permission to visit the headquarters of the United Nations in New York, to which he had been invited by the international community.

If the U.S. Secretary of State thought that by taking this decision he was undermining the position of the PLO, I believe he will discover in the not-too-distant future that he has done no such thing.

His decision, however, has not been totally ineffectual.

It has succeeded in giving credibility to the charges that have been made against the Reagan administration since it became clear that, for all its statements to the contrary, it was supporting, aiding and abetting Israel in its policy of terror against the men, women and children of the Palestinian people — including the charge that this administration is teetering on the brink of moral bankruptcy, and that its key decision-makers, not excluding Mr. Shultz, are more susceptible to the pressures exerted by Israel and the American minority that support its atrocities than befits a superpower of America's stature.

It has also succeeded in outraging the international community and increasing global doubts about the wisdom of trusting a government so blatantly biased with the keys to the gates of the United Nations Headquarters.

And it has substantiated the objections of many in the PLO who have long held that no matter how earnestly we offer Israel peace, Israel will offer us nothing but war; and that no matter how far we go to demonstrate our peaceful intentions, the Reagan administration will demonstrate nothing but contempt for the Palestinians and their rights, because what Israel and the Reagan administration want is not an opening to peace but an opening to a peace that excludes the PLO and therefore a peace the rules out the Palestinian national rights for which the PLO stands.

I confess that view seems more valid to me today than it did a few weeks ago, but since neither I nor the majority of my colleagues are anxious to trade the peace pipe in just yet, I still cling to one shred of hope: that Mr. Shultz and the Reagan administration is speaking for itself and not for the American people or for Mr. Baker and the Bush administration. It is on that assumption, and in

response to the various doubts that have been voiced about PLO's new policy that I offer the following clarifications to anyone who cares to listen:

It has been said that Palestinian Declaration of Independence is unacceptable because it is a unilateral act that was not arrived at through negotiations.

We believe the act was multilateral. The entire world gave the Palestinian people the right to independence and sovereignty on three separate occasions: in 1919, when the League of Nations passed Article 22 of its Charter; in 1923, when the great powers signed the Treaty of Lausanne; and in 1947, when the U.N. adopted Resolution 181, which partitioned Palestine into a Palestinian state and a Jewish state.

Those who disagree with us argue that those three documents, all signed by the U.S., have been overtaken by events. Our view is that such arguments undermine the credibility of the great powers and promote the cynical notion that justice is a perishable product — and that view seems to be shared by the 60 odd states that have recognised the Palestinian state so far.

But that is our view, and we are not demanding that it be accepted as a precondition to our participation in the peace talks, nor are we prepared to accept a demand that we relinquish it as a precondition to such participation.

It has been said that acceptance of Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 was "cancelled out" by our simultaneous invocation of other U.N. resolutions, which, our critics say, cast doubt on the legitimacy of the state of Israel.

Our critics have probably not read the pertinent PNC decision carefully. It states that the international peace conference should "be held on the basis of Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 and the safeguarding of the legitimate national rights of the Palestinian people, foremost among which is the right to self-determination... in accordance with the U.N. resolutions relating to the Palestinian issue."

We have always had reservations about Resolution 242 because it makes no provisions for the Palestinians' national rights, referring to the Palestinian issue only as a refugee problem. We accepted the resolution nevertheless, but only as one of two cornerstones for the international conference, the other cornerstone being the national rights of the Palestinians. As clearly indicated in the text, the U.N. resolutions referred to are the resolutions that pertain to those rights and not the resolutions that "cast doubt on the legitimacy of Israel."

Those who ask us to accept Resolution 242 as it stands, with no ands, ifs and buts, are asking us to renounce our rights as a precondition to the initiation of negotiations aimed at the recovery of our rights. That is patently illegal and unacceptable. If the proposed negotiations are intended to legitimise our present disfranchisement, we agree with our critics that we do not qualify as reliable participants.

It has been said that the PNC did not renounce terrorism.

The fact is that the PNC renounced terrorism twice. It renounced it once in the Declaration of Independence, when it said that "the State of Palestine declares its belief in the settlement of international and regional disputes by peaceful means in accordance with the Charter and resolutions of the United Nations; and its rejection of threats of force or violence or terrorism and the use of these against its territorial integrity and political independence or the territorial integrity of any other state."

It renounced it again in the political statement that accompanied the Declaration of Independence, in which it was stated that the PNC "once more announces its rejection of terrorism in all its forms, including state terrorism, emphasising its commitment to the resolutions it adopted in the past on this subject, and to the resolutions of the Arab summit in Algiers in 1988, and to U.N. Resolutions 42/19 of 1967 and 61/40 of 1985, and to what was stated in this regard in the Cairo Declaration of Nov. 7, 1985."

Normally, that would be clear

enough. Normally, the PNC would not need to add that the Palestinians, while renouncing terrorism, reserve the right to protect themselves from terrorism. But these are not normal circumstances. The Israelis have somehow convinced many in the U.S. and elsewhere that when an Israeli soldier kills a Palestinian, appropriates Palestinian land and water, burns Palestinian crops, demolishes Palestinian houses, breaks Palestinian bones and generally makes a Palestinian's life intolerable, he is engaging in legitimate self-defence, but that when a Palestinian boy throws a stone at that soldier, he is engaging in terrorism.

The PNC thus felt compelled to add that, while renouncing all forms of violence and terrorism, the Palestinian people reserved the right, as granted by U.N. resolutions, to "resist foreign occupation" and "defend its territory and independence."

If resistance of foreign occupation and defence of territory and independence are now defined as terrorism in the U.S. and Israel,

The Palestine Liberation Organisation has officially changed its position from one of total rejection of Israel's right to exist as an exclusive Zionist state to one of full acceptance of Israel under the terms of Security Council Resolution 242, which requires Israel to withdraw from the territories it occupied in 1967.

the American and Jewish dictionaries must have been revised since World War II, when they defined such activities as a basic right and the people who engaged in them as heroes.

Having said this, let me add that the Palestinians are prepared to stop all forms of resistance to Israeli occupation in advance of any negotiations if Israel is prepared to end all forms of occupation in advance of any negotiations.

It has been said that the PNC did not explicitly recognise Israel.

The PNC did not explicitly recognise Israel only if U.N. Resolution 181 of 1947 and Security Council Resolution 242 of 1967 did not explicitly recognise Israel's right to exist.

Resolution 181, which called for the partition of Palestine into one Arab state and one Jewish state, is the legal foundation of Israel. By explicitly recognising it and adopting it as the legal foundation of the state of Palestine, the PNC has explicitly recognised Israel's right to exist.

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In essence, the Charter was a rejection of the U.N. partition resolution of 1947. The PNC has now withdrawn that rejection and by so doing annulled the sections of the Charter that have caused so much consternation in Israel, the U.S. and elsewhere.

It has been said that statements made by certain members of the PLO before and after the announcement of the PNC decisions contradict the letter or spirit of those decisions, confirming suspicions that the PNC statements constitute a tactical retreat from the maximalist demands of the PLO and not a final abandonment of them.

Some have gone so far as to say that the "insincerity" of the PNC decisions was established in advance by the mere presence at the Algiers conference of a person or persons charged with acts of terrorism.

This peace offer does not come from circus performers willing to jump through endless hoops for a cube of sugar, or from panhandlers begging for a handout and ready to take all kinds of abuse for it. It comes from a people who have rights, who have been stripped of those rights, who are determined to regain them, and who have now decided to believe the Israelis, Americans, Soviets, Europeans and others who have been assuring them that those rights can be regained by peaceful means.

In offering our hand, we are gambling that it would not be lopped off. In extending the olive branch, we were hoping that it would not be used to flog us.

The responses of Israel and the U.S. administration so far suggest that it was a bad gamble and a naive hope. They suggest that PLO moderation makes the Israeli and American administrations uncomfortable. They suggest that the people in charge in Tel Aviv and Washington want to provoke the PLO into dropping all peace options, using this as a cover for the continued enslavement and persecution of the Palestinian people.

Their disapproval, however, casts no shadow on the PNC decisions — any more than the disapproval of over 40 per cent of the American people casts a shadow on the presidency of Mr. George Bush.

It boils down to this: The Palestine Liberation Organisation has officially changed its position from one of total rejection of Israel's right to exist as an exclusive Zionist state to one of full acceptance of Israel under the terms of Security Council Resolution 242, which requires Israel to withdraw from the territories it occupied in 1967, as required in that resolution.

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Korean solidarity with Palestinian people

The following is a message by Kwang Soo Choi, minister of foreign affairs of the Republic of Korea, on the occasion of the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People, Nov. 29.

AS THE people of the world again observe the International Day of Solidarity with Palestinian People, the government reaffirms its position that the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people, including their right to self-determination and the establishment of an independent state recognised by the relevant United Nations resolution should be respected, the government wishes that the declaration could contribute to creating an international atmosphere favourable to a just and durable peace in the Middle East.

The whole world expressed great concern over the recent disturbances in the Israeli occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

In this regard, the government of the Republic of Korea stated in February 1988 that it deplored the acts of violence which had already caused heavy casualties among Palestinian civilians and it strongly urged Israel to take necessary measures to comply with the relevant United Nations Security Council resolutions.

Being well aware that the question of Palestine is the key element to the solution of the Middle East problem, the government of the Republic of Korea welcomes the Declaration of 15th November 1988 of the Palestine National Council, in which

PNC has accepted the U.N. Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 for the peaceful settlement of the question of Palestine.

On this occasion, reaffirming its position that the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people, including their right to self-determination and the establishment of an independent state recognised by the relevant United Nations resolution should be respected, the government wishes that the declaration could contribute to creating an international atmosphere favourable to a just and durable peace in the Middle East.

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Experts expect \$15 a barrel oil price

TOKYO (R) — An OPEC production agreement signed in Vienna Monday will do enough to control oil supply next year and the price of OPEC crude oil is unlikely to rise over \$15 a barrel, Far East oil experts say.

Most expect that high worldwide stockpiles, rising non-OPEC production and possible cheating on quotas by OPEC countries will limit price rises to around \$13.

The Middle East benchmark crude, from Dubai, is currently trading at around \$11.85.

"There will be a bull trend for two or three weeks because of the psychological impact (of the OPEC agreement) but it will be short-lived," said Hideo Ito of Mitsui and Company.

He said oil produced by the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) was most likely to trade between \$11 and \$13 during the first quarter of 1989.

The 13 OPEC oil ministers agreed to cut output by around four million barrels per day (b/d) to 18.5 million b/d for the first

half of 1989 to boost prices to the group's \$18 a barrel target.

"At least for the short-term (the agreement) is bullish," said Masao Ito, general manager of the petroleum supply department at Nippon Oil Company. "But in the long run there could be a lot of problems."

He said United Arab Emirates (UAE) production was the most immediate problem. The UAE would have to slash its current output in half to comply with its 987,000 b/d OPEC-assigned quota for the first half of next year.

Oil prices shed nearly \$1 on overseas markets Monday after UAE Oil Minister Mana Said Al Oteiba said the OPEC-announced figure for the UAE's quota "does not represent its official quota."

But he later told Reuters that

the UAE was fully committed to the quota allocated to it by OPEC.

"For the time being (the UAE) won't violate its quota, but one or two months from now it will start to produce more," said Ito of Nippon Oil.

There is also a danger that Iraq will boost its production when its export capability increases next year.

Iraq has already suggested it may want a higher production quota at the next (OPEC) meeting," said Nippon Oil's Ito. "And naturally if arch-rival Iran will also want an increase."

There was also some doubt that even a strict output ceiling of 18.5 million b/d would sustain a \$15 per barrel price for OPEC crude due to high stocks worldwide, slower demand growth and rising production from non-OPEC oil producers.

"There are very big stockpiles in Japan, the United States and Europe," said Ito of Mitsui.

U.S. oil analysts said Monday OPEC will not achieve its target price of \$18 a barrel for crude oil in the first half of 1989 because its planned production ceiling will exceed world demand and group members are likely to cheat on their quotas.

Saudi Arabia, OPEC's largest oil producer, does not want to see \$18 a barrel oil and will not allow the \$18 target to be achieved, said Frank Knuetel of Prudential-Bache Securities Inc.

At the Vienna talks, Saudi Arabia proposed that the 13-

member group defend a price floor of \$15 a barrel.

The Saudi plan almost scuttled the pact, which trims the group's production from the estimated 23 million b/d it is now pumping.

Analysts were sceptical that the landmark accord would bring back \$18 a barrel oil. They said current oil inventories are too high and they expect OPEC to exceed its 18.5 million b/d ceiling — in keeping with past behaviour.

"Eighteen dollars a barrel? They've got to be kidding," said Charles Maxwell, senior energy strategist at Cyrus J. Lawrence, Morgan Grenfell Inc.

"OPEC may say 18.5 million b/d but availability of oil will be more like 19.5 million b/d," Maxwell said, due to drawdown of inventories and cheating on production quotas.

OPEC inventories are now around 200 million barrels and growing, Maxwell said, adding that 17.5 million b/d would be a better group output cap.

Analysts estimate 17.5 million b/d as the world demand for OPEC oil in the first half of 1989, assuming an inventory drawdown of between 1.5 million to 3.5 million b/d in the first quarter and little change in second-quarter stocks.

Analysts also said the United Arab Emirates is especially likely to exceed its production quota.

"There will probably be cheating from the UAE," said Andrew Lebow, analyst at E.D. and F. Man International Inc. "They

have been asked to cut back by 50 per cent."

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Bahrain pins hope at becoming world arbitration centre

BAHRAIN (R) — Bahrain is revamping its trade laws to set up a major arbitration centre the aim of mediating in disputes between business from all over the world.

Commerce officials say the government will launch an international advertising campaign for the project when new laws for handling foreign commercial disputes are ready.

"The commerce and legal affairs ministries are working together to draw up legislation," said Hassan Zainalabedin, first vice-president of Bahrain's Chamber of Commerce.

"The arbitration centre will have its own framework but must work within Bahrain's commercial law," he told Reuters. Arbitration is less time-consuming than going to court, he said.

He gave no details on how Bahrain's trade laws would be altered and legal officials declined to comment.

Zainalabedin said Bahrain would urge international law firms to set up on the island and would seek an internationally-known figure to be the centre's director.

"We are in the early stages now but would like to begin taking action within six months to one year — we must act quickly while the idea is still fresh in people's minds," he said.

Commerce Minister Habib Kasseem said Saturday the centre would be separate from another planned for Bahrain by the six-member Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) to handle trade disputes within the region.

Trade officials said the idea for the regional centre stemmed from growing trade, and increasing numbers of trade disputes, between companies in the Gulf and Europe.

"Many cases have remained deadlocked in court because there was no common legal umbrella under which a solution could be found," said an official who wished to remain anonymous.

In October 1987 members of

the Euro-Arab Arbitration Congress meeting in Bahrain suggested the island widen its plans to host a regional arbitration centre, and create a world-wide one as well.

"It is a good idea to have a seat of arbitration in a country in the developing world," said Fethi Kemiche, head of the Paris-based Euro-Arab arbitration system.

"One can easily imagine a Japanese and a Saudi businessman meeting for this purpose in Bahrain," he told Reuters by telephone.

He said it was not clear to which set of international arbitration rules the centre would refer.

He added that the Euro-Arab body, which represents the Euro-Arab chambers of commerce, had agreed to provide technical assistance and support.

"We think the project can be established in Bahrain considering its position and what has been done in so few months," he said.

Bahrain ratified the 1958 New York Convention on recognition and enforcement of arbitral awards last March. Only a handful of Arab countries have joined the convention because Israel is a member.

Abdulrazak Zainalabedin, head of foreign trade in the commerce ministry, said Bahrain had ratified the convention on condition it was not bound by Israeli arbitration decisions.

He said trade disputes on the island usually involved agreements between principals and agents, claims of non-payment and claims that goods were sub-standard.

Hassan Zainalabedin said arbitration complied with Islamic principles because it was within the tradition of "suh," meaning reconciliation in Arabic.

"Arbitration will be successful because it is less time consuming than going to court and it involves compromise by both sides — in a court case one wins and one loses," he said.

Bahraini businessmen said they welcomed the idea.

"It is long overdue," said Jamil Ali Ebrahimi, head of Ali Ibn Ebrahim Group.

"A trade arbitration centre is good because it signifies cooperation — and if a third party arbitrates, no one will lose face," he said.

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CBS Sony to sharply cut Japan record production

TOKYO (R) — CBS Sony Group, the wholly-owned Japanese subsidiary of Sony Corporation, will slash production of records for sale in Japan and shift to compact discs and tapes instead, a company spokesman said.

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"OPEC may say 18.5 million b/d but availability of oil will be more like 19.5 million b/d," Maxwell said, due to drawdown of inventories and cheating on production quotas.

OPEC inventories are now around 200 million barrels and growing, Maxwell said, adding that 17.5 million b/d would be a better group output cap.

Analysts estimate 17.5 million b/d as the world demand for OPEC oil in the first half of 1989, assuming an inventory drawdown of between 1.5 million to 3.5 million b/d in the first quarter and little change in second-quarter stocks.

Analysts also said the United Arab Emirates is especially likely to exceed its production quota.

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Charity match at Sports City

DEPUTISING for His Majesty King Hussein, Prince Abdullah Ibn Al Hussein Tuesday attended the football match between a team comprising players from Al Faisali and Al Duffastein and a team grouping players from the Ramtha and Hussein teams, held at the Sports City Stadium. Taking part in the match, which ended in a 3-all defeat of the Faisali and Duffastein team, was the renowned French football player Michel Platini. At the end of the match, the proceeds of which will benefit the Cerebral Palsy Foundation, Prince Abdullah presented Platini with a golden cup and members of the winning team with medals (Petra photo).

Johnson, weeping, vows '92 comeback

MILAN (AP) — Canadian runner Ben Johnson, weeping in front of television cameras, said Sunday he never knowingly took banned drugs and dreams of making a comeback at the 1992 Olympics in Barcelona, Spain.

The World 100-metre champion, banned from competition for two years for being found to have used steroids at the Seoul Olympics, said he was possibly the victim of a conspiracy, but he did not elaborate.

He claimed that his impressive muscular growth and his world records resulted from "13 years of dedication to track, from several hours a day of weightlifting and exercise."

Johnson, stripped of the Gold Medal in Seoul after failing to pass drug tests, gave a rare inter-

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN AND OMAR SHARIF

TEEN TIGERS

Neither vulnerable. East deals.

NORTH	♦ A ♦ 9 ♦ 3
♦ Q ♦ 8 ♦ 4	♦ K ♦ Q ♦ 10 ♦ 5
♦ 10 ♦ 6 ♦ 2	
WEST	♦ K ♦ 10 ♦ 5 ♦ 4 ♦ 6 ♦ 4
♦ Q ♦ 7 ♦ 5	♦ A ♦ K ♦ 10 ♦ 6 ♦ 3
♦ 10 ♦ 9 ♦ 8 ♦ 7 ♦ 6	♦ 10 ♦ 4 ♦ 3 ♦ 2
♦ K ♦ 5	♦ A ♦ 3 ♦ 9

EAST South West North
1 ♠ 1 ♠ 2 ♠ 2 ♠
Pass Pass Pass Pass

Opening lead: Nine of ♠. If there's one thing we regret, it's that we didn't learn to play bridge much earlier than we did. The senior member of your writing team learned while he was at McGill University in Montreal; the junior members while waiting for his son to be shot on movie lots. When we see how some teenagers perform today, we are filled with awe. Two of the brightest prospects on the American scene are Doug Hacht of New York

After casting the ace of hearts, East led a third round. Declarer guessed wrong when he ruffed with the nine. West overruffed with the ten and still had to score the king of trumps for down four!

The best East-West could do at a heart contract was eight tricks, or nine if the defense erred grievously. Thus, the 200 earned for beating the contract four tricks was a clear top for the teen-age stars. We wish some of our partners could defend that well today!



JUMBLE

THAT SCRABLED WORD GAME

by Henri Arnold and Bob Lee

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

SETAC

FLABE

YEASUN

REPTIL

HOW THAT ORCHESTRA PLAYER KEPT HIS TEETH IN SHAPE.

Now unscramble the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Answer: WITH A

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumble: ONLY VERVE. WATERY LARYNX
Answer: When a woman "screams" a husband she should know this— WHERE TO DRAW THE LINE

SPORTS IN BRIEF

Maradona may return to Argentina

BUENOS AIRES (R) — Argentine soccer star Diego Maradona said Monday he would return to Argentina to play for Boca Juniors as soon as his contract with Napoli of Italy ended in 1993. "My contract with Napoli ends in 1993 and I'll take the first plane out of Rome and come back to Argentina for good to play for Boca," Maradona told reporters on arrival at Ezeiza airport. Maradona, who led Napoli to a 4-1 victory over Italian champions AC Milan Sunday, returned to Buenos Aires to spend two days with his family. He said Argentina would put up a good defence of the World Cup in Italy in 1990.

Chess love pair apply for visa

FRANKFURT (R) — A leading Soviet woman chess player who secretly married the American team captain during a tournament in Greece applied for a U.S. immigration visa Monday, a U.S. spokesman said. Yelena Akhmedovskaya, number two in the Soviet team at the World Chess Olympiad in Salonika, married John Donaldson on Friday, and they flew to Frankfurt on Saturday. It will take about four days to process the application. Consulate spokesman Craig Springer said.

Becker heads Davis Cup team

BONN (R) — Boris Becker, back in action after a foot injury, will spearhead West Germany's challenge in next month's Davis Cup tennis final against Sweden. Becker, ranked fourth in the world, is joined by Patrick Kuehnen and in-form pair Eric Jelen and Carl-Uwe Steeb in the unchanged squad. The quartet have won all their three matches 5-0 in the competition so far. Becker, who had his left foot in plaster for 10 days after a ligament injury at the Stockholm Open earlier this month, seems to have recovered fully and will play in this week's masters in New York. If he has no further injury problems he will take the number one singles spot for the Davis Cup final in Gothenburg from Dec. 16 to 18. Jelen, 23, and Steeb, 21, are both strong candidates for the second singles place. They showed impressive form against some of the world's top 10 at the Stuttgart Classic event earlier this month.

Lyle and McColgan, Britain's top athletes

LONDON (AP) — Masters champion Sandy Lyle and distance runner Liz McColgan were voted Britain's top athletes of 1988 in the annual Sport Writers' Association poll Tuesday. Lyle, who also won the British masters and narrowly missed topping the U.S. Professional Golfers' Association tour money-winning list, gained 224 points in the balloting to easily beat two Olympic champions — swimmer Adrian Moorhouse and shooter Malcolm Cooper. McColgan, a silver medalist in the women's 10,000 metres at the summer games in Seoul, drew 214 points, well ahead of another Olympian, equestrian rider Virginia Leng.

U.S. athlete goes to court

PHOENIX (AP) — Carol Cady, one of 14 U.S. track and field athletes who competed in South Africa, said the group was warmly received in that country. "They were happy to have us there," she said in an interview Monday in Phoenix, where she is attending a convention of the Athletics Congress, the governing body for U.S. track and field. "They hadn't had a meet there in 12 years. They were starved for international competition," said Cady, who is the U.S. record holder in women's discus.

FORECAST FOR WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 30, 1988

YOUR DAILY HOROSCOPE

— As Charted By The Carroll Righter Astrological Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Unique ideas flow freely when you are not daydreaming. Harmony is sought. Along with a selfless love of family and home life, an appreciation of art, music, color style and peace permeates today's activities.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) Your personal energy gains momentum. Keep daydreams regarding one you admire at bay. Initiative can be stifled at your workplace.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) An old financial debt is repaid. Something lost is found. Social interests gain momentum. Take the initiative, and accept invitations.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) Your strength lies in quiet confidence. Discover new employment opportunities. Look inward to your talents and intuition today.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to Jul. 21) Imagination is a wonderful tool if used in a positive manner. You can get out of a rut by using new ideas for a change of pace.

LEO (Jul. 22 to Aug. 21) Do what you enjoy. Get ready for action. Worry over personal relations passes. Let time work for you. Enthusiasm for goals brings results.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) You receive a gift through a relation-

ship. Loving connections produce results. At ease at home and work, you find peace with your world.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) Use your gift of laughter. You have a well-organized plan concerning job matters. A private problem reaches a climax and is solved.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) Your attraction to the opposite sex is strong. Play the field, and meet new people. Find the kind of relationship you have dreamed of.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) Stay clear of disputes. Others may not mean what they say. Avoid being blinds even though you are right. It is a lucky day.

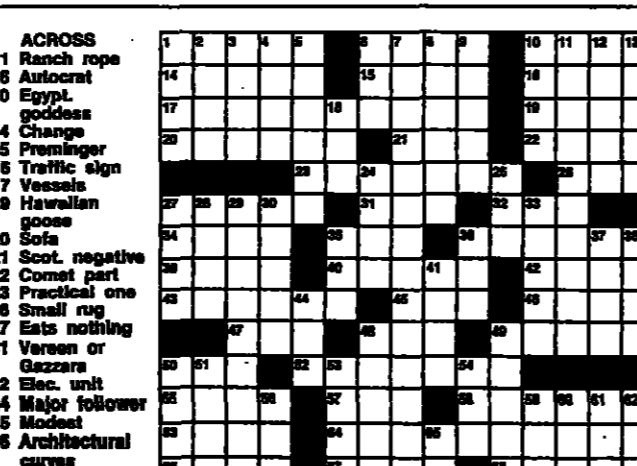
CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) Someone may try to pull a fast one. Be alert. You need private time. Do what is necessary, and duck out on your own. Visit an old friend.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) Your ideas are quite appealing. Communicate with a superior. Take a break for a private meeting. Your enthusiasm is useful.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) Minor aggravations disappear. It is time for a change of pace. Move on to romantic and creative aspirations. Spend tonight with a friend.

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THE Daily Crossword



Yesterday's Puzzle Solved:

1. Ranch rope	2. Egyptian	3. Goddess	4. Change	5. Premier	6. Traffic sign	7. Vessel	8. Hawaiian	9. Geese	10. Sofa	11. Scot. negative	12. Comet	13. Practical one	14. Eats nothing	15. Veron or Gazzara	16. Elec. unit	17. Major follower	18. Modest	19. Architectural curves	20. Somewhat dark	21. Unrestricted	22. Thin	23. Pre	24. — majestic	25. Name in China	26. Sarcasm	27. Priority garment	28. Kitchen gadget	29. Pretense	30. Point	31. Blinds	32. Glut	33. Engine chamber	34. Handicraft	35. The morning lottery / numbers	36. T-man	37. Trunk	38. Conceal	39. Once, once	40. Scatter	41. Maiden	42. Der —	43. Tidbit	44. Rotten	45. Troublesome	46. Author	47. Areas	48. Tibetan city	49. Social division	50. Tree	51. Retain	52. Troublesome	53. Markman	54. German	55. Existence	56. Worker or soldier
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Zurbriggen wins, while Tomba is disqualified

VAL THORENS (

Papandreu sacks two ministers

ATHENS (AP) — Premier Andreas Papandreu dismissed two ministers Tuesday after they accused pro-government labour leaders of alleged fraud and embezzlement and government members of involvement in a growing multimillion-dollar banking scandal.

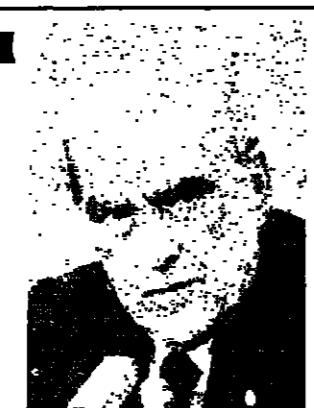
The dismissals came as leading afternoon pro-government and opposition dailies headlined that the administration was about to collapse due to the banking scandal.

A government announcement said Papandreu fired Deputy Education Minister Haris Kastanidis and his Undersecretary Stephanos Tzoumas because "by their personal initiatives and statements disagree with the government's policy."

Their dismissals followed the resignation of Costas Laliotis, minister without portfolio, for personal reasons, Monday.

All three ministers were sworn in Nov. 18, when Papandreu reshuffled his government for the 15th time since his Panhellenic Socialist Movement (PASOK) came to power seven years ago.

Kastanidis, in a letter sent to a meeting of a World War II resistance group which supports PASOK in Salonica,



Andreas Papandreu

northern Greece, accused party leaders of dragging its feet in "cleaning up public life."

In his letter which was not read but later made public, Kastanidis said he was abstaining from appearing at the group's meeting, because "moral values are disintegrating," alluding to the Koskotas affair.

Izoumakaus accused the PASOK appointed leadership of the general confederation of Greek labour of alleged fraud and embezzlement in the disappearance of tens of thousands of dollars.

The dismissals indicated growing dissatisfaction among rank and file members of PASOK who appear willing to suffer the consequences for openly criticising government handling of the banking scandal and other scandals that have come to the surface, following persistent investigative reporting by the Greek daily press.

Angola urges UNITA supporters to stop aid

LUANDA (R) — Angola said Tuesday it hoped South Africa and the United States would agree to stop supporting Angolan rebels at the latest round of peace talks starting in the Congolese capital Brazzaville.

Diplomats said the issue of aid for the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA) rebels and pressure on the Angolan government to negotiate with the rebels could still derail the delicate U.S.-mediated peace process for Angola and Namibia begun in May.

A commentary by the official Angolan news agency Angop, which usually reflects government thinking, appealed to Washington and Pretoria to show flexibility and good sense in the meeting due to open in Brazzaville Tuesday.

Negotiators from South Africa, Angola and Cuba are to initial a protocol on a United Nations independence plan for South African-ruled Namibia and a timetable for the departure of the estimated 50,000 Cuban troops in Angola.

Red Army suspect waives right to jury

NEWARK, New Jersey (R) — A suspected Japanese RFD Army guerrilla waived his right to a jury trial Monday in a move that could end his trial without testimony on why he was heading for New York in a car loaded with bombs last April.

The offer to waive a jury trial was made by attorney William Kunster after he failed to have charges against Yu Kikumura, 35, dismissed.

Sources close to the case said the offer had been accepted by the prosecution and they expected legal proceedings against Kikumura to be over Tuesday without any testimony being given against him.

Had the case gone to a jury, it was expected to last four months with 75 witnesses listed to testify.

Kunster stressed the Kikumura was not pleading guilty to the charges and wanted to preserve his right to appeal a conviction to a higher court.

But he said his client was willing to admit that when he was arrested April 12 he had in his car on the New Jersey turnpike three bombs, gunpowder and lead pellets.

Cool's audience roasts in Ivory Coast

By Michael Roddy
Reuter

ABIDJAN — American rap music star L.L.Cool J brought the pounding rhythm that rocks America's cities to steamy Ivory Coast last week but had to beat a hasty retreat.

The 20-year-old New Yorker, whose records have sold millions but who still lives in the basement of his grandmother's house, headed home after abruptly ending a concert when fights broke out, several people fainted and the audience invaded the stage.

"We felt that for the safety of L.L and for the safety of the young girls who were hyper-ventilating it was necessary to get him to leave the stage," Royale Bayyan, a coordinator of the concert, told Reuters.

The one-night appearance in Ivory Coast's principal city was the first live rap concert on the African continent.

L.L., who was born in a middle-class New York suburb and whose real name is James Todd Smith, took the matter in his stride.

"It went fine but the crowd was real excited and we stopped it... early," he said. "We didn't want to take it to a higher level."

He said it was "more than likely" he would come back to Africa, even though the concert took a beating at the hands of this west African country's government-controlled press.

The evening newspaper Ivoir's said a massive crowd had turned out for a concert that ended after 35 minutes. The morning newspaper

Fraternite Main said the performance was fine but poorly organised.

Until the concert got out of control, L.L. had an audience of 2,000 French-speaking Ivoirians dancing in the aisles and on their chairs. "It's great even though I can't understand a word he's saying," Sarah Diop said as she danced on her seat to the deafening beat. "I like the rhythm and the way he says the words."

L.L. Cool J made his first hit single at 16. He says non-English-speaking audiences love rap even though it is non-melodic and heavily dosed with American slang.

"What I do is from the heart and even if they're from a different country they understand what I'm talking about," he said in an interview before the concert.

"They can feel the realness. They just get into the music."

L.L. Cool J, whose stage name stands for ladies love Cool James, said he enjoyed Africa and hoped to track down his ancestry on the continent.

"I love it here," he said. "My manager asked me do you want to go to Africa and I said: 'Yeah, I'd be interested because it's where my people come from.' I'm black so I wanted to come to Africa."

During his brief stay in this former French colony, L.L. Cool J was named honorary chieftain of the nearby beach resort of Grand Bassam. He promised to build a health clinic there and donated about \$2,000 to the town's orphans.



Pablo Picasso

Gogh's "iris" went under the hammer for \$53.9 million at rival auction house Sotheby's.

"Acrobat and Young Harlequin (Acrobate et Jeune Arlequin)" had been banned as deca-

dent and confiscated by the Nazis in occupied Europe in 1939.

The painting, with subtle blue and pink tones, was mounted on a black felt stand as art dealers crowded the saleroom and two ante-rooms where the auction was relayed on closed-circuit television.

Bidding rocketed past the expected sale price of about £10 million (\$18 million) as a Japanese man in the hall competed with a telephone bidder for the work.

In just over three minutes the hammer fell on an historic sale.

The Japanese buyer left the auction room without identifying himself, but a Christie's spokesman told reporters: "He was very excited about it."

Speech condemns past repressions, urges support for reform

Gorbachev envisions new country

MOSCOW (R) — President Mikhail Gorbachev, projecting a vision of a new, democratic Soviet Union, declared Tuesday the country had to break out a past repression to create an efficient, modern society.

In a 70-minute speech to the federal parliament, the Supreme Soviet, he also assured deputies he was not seeking personal power and offered an olive branch to restive republics seeking greater autonomy from Moscow.

"The steady progress of our political reform," he told a session of the body called to approve wide-ranging changes to the state constitution, "shows a new, democratic Soviet Union."

Speaking under a huge marble statue of state founder Vladimir Lenin, Gorbachev effectively condemned the rule of dictator Josef Stalin and late Kremlin leader Leonid Brezhnev for

bringing first injustice and then social decay.

In the early 1930s, he said in address calling for speedy passage of his reform package, "authoritarian methods of power were established and mass repressions and other violations of socialist legality became widespread."

Later, he added, ordinary people were cut off from any real participation in running the country's affairs and real control was taken over by Communist Party and government bureaucrats, leading to "the ossification of the political system."

Gorbachev, speaking in the hall of the grand Kremlin palace, admitted that the Supreme Soviet

had in the past simply rubber-stamped decisions taken elsewhere.

Under proposals certain to be approved, the 1,500 members will vote the parliamentary body in its present form out of existence and usher in a new two-tier legislature headed by an executive president with strong authority.

The proposals also include the establishment of a revised electoral system providing for multi-candidate balloting to a new Congress of People's Deputies, breaking with the practice of decades in which Soviet voters had no choice.

During a month of public discussion of drafts for the constitutional changes, even fervent supporters of Gorbachev's "perestroika" reforms have expressed fears the presidency may gain too much power.

The drafts also stirred strong feelings in at least five of the coun-

try's 15 republics, with Baltic Estonia in the vanguard, that loose wording could lead to stricter central control limiting their autonomy.

Gorbachev promised that the next stage of the reform would firmly address the sovereignty issue.

Viljas has insisted Estonia will push ahead with reforms voted by its own parliament despite Gorbachev's rejection of them as illegal.

But the Kremlin chief appeared to attempt to avert the potential confrontation by dropping a section of the prepared text of his speech in which he described the Estonian parliament's actions as "deplorable" and unconstitutional.

The official TASS news agency included those comments in an initial report of the speech, but Gorbachev did not deliver them and TASS later withdrew the remarks.

With Estonian Communist Party chief Vaino Viljas and other leaders from the republic listening from the deputies' benches,

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However, Kremlin ideologist Vadim Medvedev told a news briefing later they had not been in a copy of the speech he had seen.

S. Africa shows two faces to the world

JOHANNESBURG (R) — White South Africa is showing two sharply contrasting faces to the world. One of them conciliatory, amenable to international pressure, anxious to improve the country's image.

The other says, in effect, go to hell.

On the side of reasonableness, the white-led South African government has over the past week announced in quick succession a series of decisions with far-reaching domestic and foreign impact.

Pretoria gave its blessing to an agreement that would end its control of Namibia, the "Sharpeville six" black prisoners were reprieved from the gallows, moves to give nationalist leader Nelson Mandela more freedom went ahead and two veteran political prisoners were released outright.

Approving noises poured in from round the world.

"Nobody can deny that there were real reasons to feel a little less ashamed of being a South African," the Johannesburg Sunday Star said in an editorial.

The financial rand, South Africa's special currency to attract foreign investment, perked up by three per cent and speculation renewed about a much-sought visit by British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher in the new year.

Pretoria hopes its moves will ease international pressure to impose more economic sanctions

against South Africa, an important factor when the economy is experiencing a slump.

But other events, showing up South Africa in a harsher light, may undo Pretoria's efforts to shed its pariah status.

On Nov. 15 a shooting spree in central Pretoria in which blacks were methodically mown down was a stark reminder of the strength of racist enmities.

A white ex-policeman, Barend Stydron, was arrested following the rampage in which seven blacks died and 12 were injured.

Authorities said he was a self-confessed member of a neo-fascist organisation which seeks to relegate non-whites to a status even more humiliating than they have now.

Methodist clergyman Peter Storey told a prayer meeting for the victims that the episode could not be regarded as isolated and was a symptom of a society where blacks are often regarded as being "one notch above cattle."

Last week far right-wingers running the town council in the Transvaal town of Boksburg turned the clock back by starting to erect "whites-only" signs at public facilities.

Across the blue-collar industrial heartland near Johannesburg there is talk of segregating local cinemas, swimming pools and town halls. Emergent black firms are faced with measures such as a ban of black taxi ranks in town centres.

WORLD NEWS IN BRIEF

Eurogroup urges vigilance

WASHINGTON (R) — The chief of Eurogroup, which represents the 12 European North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) nations, said Monday the alliance should not fall prey to U.S. and Soviet euphoria over Mikhail Gorbachev's glasnost policies. "We are all aware that East-West relations as well as global strategic and political environment are undergoing fundamental changes," said Ercan Vuralan, Turkey's defence minister and the Eurogroup chief, said in a breakfast meeting. While he hailed the U.S.-Soviet agreement on intermediate-range nuclear forces (INF), Vuralan said a strong defence for all NATO countries must be maintained. Vuralan spoke on behalf of Eurogroup, which is composed of the defence ministers of the European NATO nations. It excludes the North American NATO members, Canada and the United States.

'S. Koreans want gradual U.S. pullout'

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — A majority of South Koreans support the gradual withdrawal of the U.S. forces stationed in South Korea under a mutual defence pact, according to a government survey released Tuesday. The survey by the Unification Ministry found 59.1 per cent of those questioned support the phased removal of the 42,000 U.S. troops in South Korea. The survey did not say how long such a withdrawal should take. The survey showed 32.4 per cent of those questioned support the continued presence of U.S. forces as a deterrent to war on the divided Korean peninsula. Another 7.2 per cent favoured immediate withdrawal of U.S. troops. Ministry officials said the survey was conducted in July.

Space reduces growth hormone

STATE COLLEGE, Pennsylvania (AP) — A U.S. scientist who tested rats aboard an unmanned Soviet spacecraft says he discovered lower levels of a hormone affecting the rodents' bone and muscle mass. Wesley Hymer, director of the NASA-funded centre for cell research, said learning why growth hormone levels were reduced in the rats could have implications on lengthy space missions and osteoporosis research. Astronauts have experienced bone and muscle losses during space flight, a possible hindrance to lengthy missions such as a manned space station or journey to Mars. "One could think about using space as a research laboratory for studying osteoporosis," said Hymer, a 53-year-old biochemistry professor at Penn State University who has worked with NASA since 1978.

London raises ozone concerns

LONDON (R) — Britain Monday urged rapid global action to find substitutes for widely used chemicals which are damaging the Earth's protective ozone layer and transforming the world climate. Junior Environment Minister Virginia Bottomley, addressing a one-day international conference on the ozone threat, said industrialised and developing countries had to find alternatives to chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs). CFCs are widely used in refrigerators, aerosols and plastic packaging. Scientists say they break up the ozone layer which stops the sun's harmful rays reaching Earth and contribute to the "greenhouse effect" — global warming caused when gases cannot escape the Earth's atmosphere. Bottomley said worldwide CFC emissions had to be cut by 85 per cent by the end of the century and said Britain would lobby other countries to catch up with scientific work in the area.

COLUMN

Woman found in container

JOHANNESBURG (R) — An American woman, Sylvia Grimes-Harper, who spent three weeks in a container on a ship sailing to South Africa, will be repatriated, an official said Tuesday. Mystery surrounds the 43-year-old woman who was found in a sealed container at the Indian Ocean port of Durban last week after a three-week voyage on a ship which arrived from the British port of Felixstowe. "Go and ask the FBI," is all she will say, according to local officials. A U.S. consular official in Durban has met Grimes-Harper but has refused to release any information about her. She was discovered in a container after a worker heard tapping from the inside. The stowaway was well, having survived on a diet of baby food and bottled water.

Bastille descendants sought

PARIS (R) — Wanted: Descendants of the 900 Parisians who started the French revolution. Pride of place in celebrations to mark the 200th anniversary of the revolution will be given to those descended from the citizens who stormed the Bastille prison July 14, 1789. "Wanted" placards have been posted around the Paris underground system by city authorities calling on descendants of the "mob" to come forward. French authorities are preparing large-scale festivities to mark the revolution which overthrew the French monarchy. They plan to form a human chain of ancestors next June 25 from the site of the former Bastille to the Place de la Concorde, where aristocratic victims of the mob fell victim to the guillotine.

Stars raise money for charity

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Frank Sinatra, Liza Minnelli and Sam Davis Junior raised \$1 million in a charity appearance during their U.S. tour. The money will go to the Barbara Sinatra Children's Centre, which is in Rancho Mirage and cares for sexually and physically abused children, said Susan Reynolds, a tour spokeswoman. The sold-out charity show was at the forum, home of the Los Angeles Kings hockey team and the Los Angeles Lakers NBA basketball champions. "Last time I was in this building I was trying out for the Lakers," joked Davis, who also delighted the audience with a spoof of Michael Jackson's "bad." After the show the three performers had dinner with 400 guests who paid \$2,500 each to charity for the concert and banquet. Among those in attendance were Tom Selleck, Chevy Chase, Milton Berle, Gregory Peck and George Hamilton.

Quacker gets top title

STUTTGART, Arkansas (AP) —